

# 2021 MISSOURI BUSINESSES BY SIZE

MAY 2022

## NUMBER OF BUSINESSES BY SIZE

Tracking Missouri businesses by employment size can be used to identify which size of business employs the most people, how Missouri businesses range by the size of employment and average wages, and what is the typical size of businesses by industry.

Missouri had **208,969 private sector employers** in the first quarter of 2021\*. Very small businesses comprised a majority of this total, with **79.8 percent** of Missouri businesses employing fewer than 10 people. Firms employing 1 to 49 workers made up **96.4 percent** of all businesses in Missouri.

### NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES

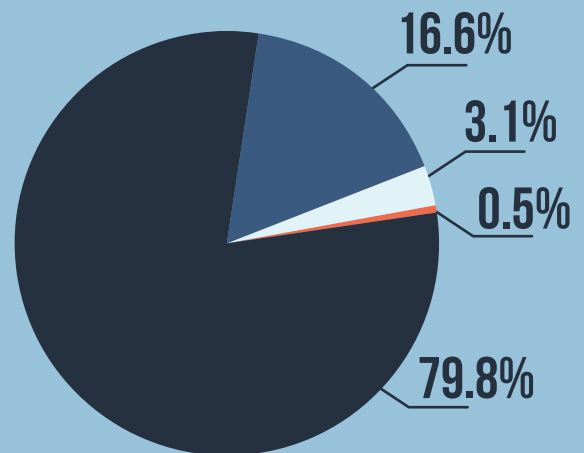
1-4  
5-9  
10-19  
20-49  
50-99  
100-249  
250-499  
500-999  
1000+  
**TOTAL**

### NUMBER OF ESTABLISHMENTS

138,517  
28,209  
20,674  
14,079  
4,364  
2,188  
646  
185  
107  
**208,969**

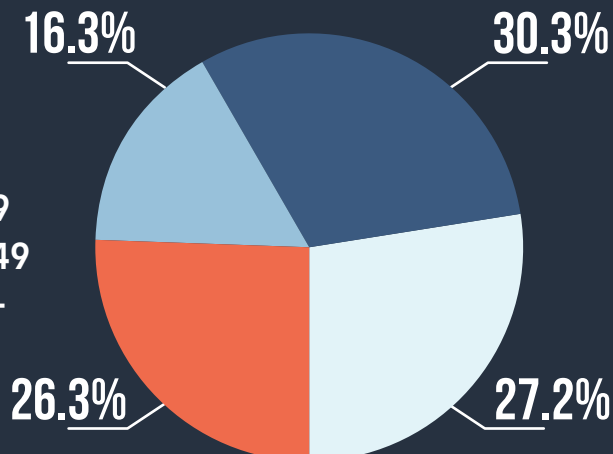
## COMBINED PERCENT OF BUSINESSES BY SIZE

● 1-9  
● 10-49  
● 50-249  
● 250+



## EMPLOYMENT PERCENT BY BUSINESS SIZE

● 1-9  
● 10-49  
● 50-249  
● 250+



## PERCENTAGE OF EMPLOYMENT BY BUSINESS SIZE

Small businesses in Missouri employ a significant portion of the private sector workforce. Private sector employees that work for a small business (less than 50 employees) comprise **46.5 percent** of the workforce. Medium-sized businesses (50-249 employees) employ **27.2 percent** of the private sector workforce, while large employers (250 or more) employ **26.3 percent**.

## WAGES BY BUSINESS SIZE

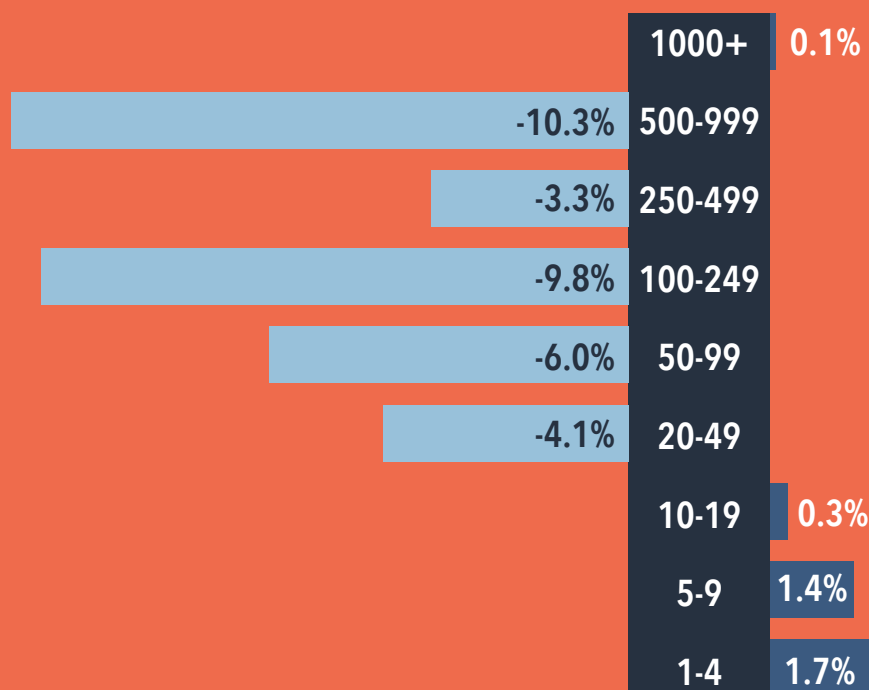
Wages were calculated using first quarter data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The average first quarter annual wage in Missouri for 2021, for all private industries regardless of business size, was **\$56,108**. Wages were highest at businesses that employed 1,000 or more people with average wages equaling **\$80,756**. Establishments that employed 10 to 19 people had the lowest average wage at **\$43,732**.

1000+	\$80,756
500-999	\$76,128
250-499	\$62,192
100-249	\$61,204
50-99	\$51,584
20-49	\$46,436
10-19	\$43,732
5-9	\$45,188
1-4	\$50,492
MO AVERAGE	\$56,108

## 2021 EMPLOYMENT TRENDS BY BUSINESS SIZE

Employment levels were calculated using first quarter data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Most businesses experienced a decrease in employment. Businesses that employed from 500-999 employees experienced a negative employment growth of **10.3 percent**. Businesses that employed 1-4 people had the largest growth of **1.7 percent**. Overall, Missouri businesses lost **87,250 employees** between first quarter 2020 and first quarter 2021. The first quarter of 2020 measures the period immediately before the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Recovery was underway by the first quarter of 2021.

### EMPLOYMENT CHANGE (%) 2020-2021



BUSINESS SIZE	EMPLOYMENT CHANGE 20-21
1000+	313
500-999	-14,678
250-499	-7,419
100-249	-35,326
50-99	-18,656
20-49	-17,885
10-19	744
5-9	2,502
1-4	3,155

**TOTAL: -87,250**

# AVERAGE SIZE OF BUSINESS BY INDUSTRY

The average business size was **14 employees** in the first quarter of 2021. Two industries had an average employment of more than 30: *Manufacturing* with **39 workers** per establishment and *Management of Companies and Enterprises* with **34 workers** per business. *Utilities and Educational Services* industries also had higher average employment with **25 and 21 workers** per establishment, respectively. The *Real Estate and Rental and Leasing* and *Other Services, Except Public Administration* had the lowest average employment with **five or fewer workers** per business.



## NOTES:

The data contained in this report focuses on economic and industry activity in Missouri during COVID-19 pandemic, using the most reliable and proven economic and workforce data resources available. Typically, these high-quality sources have some lag in publication due to the sound and thorough methodologies used to ensure accurate and reliable data. Analysis of economic shifts will always rely on these key sources for the most precise representation of the economy, and Missouri will continue to monitor these indicators throughout the state's economic recovery.

The Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC) monitors business sizes through unemployment insurance accounts established in the state.

\*Even though annual data is available for employment size counts (page one), first quarter is used for data congruency, keeping in view the multi-source availability subjected to only the first quarter release at the time of this document. Business data is derived from the quarterly census of employment and wages, a cooperative program between the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and state labor market information centers. Non-employer businesses, such as sole proprietors, are monitored through a U.S. Census Bureau program that uses administrative data, chiefly IRS returns, to develop statistics. Non-employer businesses account for less than 4 percent of all sales but do account for the largest number of businesses. More information is available at:

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/surveys-programs.html>

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/nonemployer-statistics.html>

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